IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 7-11, without prejudice.

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A ~~DNA~~ cDNA molecule ~~comprising~~ consisting of a nucleotide sequence encoding a fragment of the TAF$_{II}$105 polypeptide of SEQ. ID. NO: 2 or such a modified fragment, wherein said fragment or modified fragment has a dominant negative effect on the normal biological activity of said TAF$_{II}$105 polypeptide.

2. (Currently Amended) A ~~DNA~~ cDNA molecule according to Claim 1 wherein said fragment ~~is derived~~ originates from the N-terminal domain of the TAF$_{II}$105 polypeptide of SEQ. ID. NO: 2.

Claims 3-5. (Withdrawn)

6. (Currently Amended) An expression vector comprising the ~~DNA~~ cDNA molecule of Claim 1 and DNA sequences required for its expression.

Claims 7-11. (Canceled)

12. (Original) A DNA molecule directing expression of an antisense RNA sequence to SEQ. ID. NO: 1, or a part thereof, and which is capable of inhibiting its expression *in vivo*.

13. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition for inducing an apoptotic process in pathological cells comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and an active agent selected from the group consisting of:

(a) ~~a fragment of the TAF$_{II}$105 polypeptide of SEQ. ID. NO: 2 or such a fragment modified by internal deletion, replacement or addition of one or more amino acids, wherein the fragment or the modified fragment has a dominant negative effect on the normal biological activity of the TAF$_{II}$105 polypeptide;~~

~~(b) an inhibitor or antagonist of the $TAF_{II}105$ polypeptide of SEQ. ID. NO: 2;~~

~~(c)~~ a ~~DNA~~ cDNA sequence encoding ~~the~~ a fragment ~~or modified fragment of (a)~~ of the $TAF_{II}105$ polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2 or such a fragment modified by internal deletion, replacement or addition of one or more amino acids, wherein the fragment or modified fragment has a dominant negative effect on the normal biological activity of the $TAF_{II}105$ polypeptide; and

(~~d~~ b) a ~~DNA~~ cDNA sequence directing expression of an antisense RNA sequence to SEQ.ID. NO.:1, or a part thereof, and which is capable of inhibiting its expression *in vivo*.

14. (Withdrawn)

15. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 13 wherein the active agent (e~~a~~) is a ~~DNA~~ cDNA molecule ~~comprising~~ consisting of a nucleotide sequence encoding a fragment of the $TAF_{II}105$ polypeptide of SEQ. ID. NO: 2 or such a modified fragment, wherein said fragment or modified fragment has a dominant negative effect on the normal biological activity of said $TAF_{II}105$ polypeptide.

16. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 13 for the treatment of cancer.

17. (Withdrawn)

18. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition for treatment of pathological apoptosis of cells comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and an active agent selected from the group consisting of:

~~(e)~~(a) a ~~DNA~~ cDNA molecule comprising the DNA sequence of SEQ. ID. NO: 1;

~~(f)~~(b) a ~~DNA~~ cDNA molecule consisting of a DNA sequence encoding the $TAF_{II}105$ polypeptide of SEQ. ID. NO: 2~~;~~

~~(g) a modified DNA sequence of (a) or (b) in which one or more nucleotide triplets have been added, deleted, or replaced, wherein the polypeptide encoded by the modified DNA sequence retains the normal biological activity of the $TAF_{II}105$ polypeptide of SEQ. ID. NO: 2;~~

~~(h) the $TAF_{II}105$ polypeptide of SEQ. ID. NO: 2; and~~

~~(i) a modified polypeptide of (d) in which one or more amino acids have been added, deleted or replaced, wherein the modified polypeptide retains the normal biological activity of the $TAF_{II}105$ polypeptide encoded by SEQ. ID. NO: 2~~.

19. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 18 for the treatment of autoimmune diseases, inflammatory processes and viral or bacterial infections.

Please add the following new claims:

--20. (New) The cDNA molecule of claim 1, wherein the cDNA molecule encodes a polypeptide fragment corresponding to amino acids 443-552 of the $TAF_{II}105$ polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2.

21. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 13, wherein the cDNA molecule encodes a polypeptide fragment corresponding to amino acids 443-552 of the $TAF_{II}105$ polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2.--